

CRUELTY AND KINDNESS

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the present day newspapers find that their circulation is increased by the publication of horrors. And which of us will not confess with shame to having been assailed by an impulse to save things which he knows will unnecessarily hurt the feelings of a friend ?

KINDNESS appears to be an emotion which is derived from an impulse to fondle or embrace. We may perhaps somewhat fancifully detect the effects of this instinct in the curious association of different creatures known as commensality or symbiosis. Instances of this are very numerous. A species of sea anemone (*Adamsia*) attaches itself to the shells of hermit crabs : puffins and rabbits, prairie dogs and prairie owls amicably share the same burrow : orackles nestle round the nest of the osprey. There is no question of parasitism : each animal lives its life independently but appears to be attracted by the other's society. In mankind the propensity to keep pets is very strong and may not improbably have led the way to the domestication of animals. In some districts of India every man carries a *bulbul* about with him. and caged birds enliven homes throughout the East as well as Europe. Many people are not happy without a dog. As objects of worship and as totems. animals. since the beginning of history have been treated by man with an affectionate regard which the

propensities of our
own bovs will enable us to realize.
The natives
of Peru have domesticated a snake.
many a
schoolboy will carry one within his
waistcoat.
and would sleep very agreeably with
guinea pigs
and white rats nestling against him.

In their dealings with one another
men even
the most depraved are often moved
most unexpectedly by feelings of kindness. In
the cynical